

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Fifteenth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Fifteenth Essex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.4% (438) reside in the Fifteenth Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (83) of Fifteenth Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 74.4% of admissions from the Fifteenth Essex Representative District were male and 25.6% were female.
- Over 66.2% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 81.7% of admissions were white non-Latino, 1.1% were black non-Latino, 14.4% were Latino, 0.2% were Asian, and 2.5% were other racial categories.
- 58.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 11.6% were married, and 19.4% reported not to be married now.
- 28.8% of admissions had less than high school education, 50.0% completed high school, and 21.2% had more than high school education.
- 32.9% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 8.9% of those admitted were homeless.
- 13.7% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Fifteenth Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Fifteenth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	483	317	130	150	126	202	125
FY '96	480	340	147	129	117	215	134
FY '97	458	313	123	122	93	221	147
FY '98	416	270	111	85	69	232	170
FY '99	356	223	102	101	66	183	138
FY '00	525	361	158	130	99	252	186
FY '01	438	291	88	90	52	226	141

- Since FY 1995, residents of Fifteenth Essex Representative District reported an increase in heroin use, but a decrease in all other drug categories. Heroin use increased by 12%, while alcohol use decreased by 8%, marijuana by 32%, cocaine by 40%, and crack use by 58%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Fifteenth Essex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	36.3%	47.9%	6.2%	2.3%	2.7%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While marijuana as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, heroin as a primary drug was higher, and, alcohol, cocaine and crack was lower within your District.